



Chronic Wasting Disease Investigation Update

Provided by the Animal Industry Division
Michigan Department of Agriculture
September 26, 2008

Background:

The Michigan departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed the state's first case of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a three-year old white-tailed deer from a privately owned cervid (POC) facility in Kent County on Monday, August 25, 2008.

The state quarantined all POC facilities, prohibiting the movement of all – dead or alive – privately-owned deer, elk, or moose. Officials do not yet know how the deer may have contracted the disease. To date, there is no evidence that CWD presents a risk to humans or to animals other than cervids.

MDA Actions:

The state-wide quarantine on all privately owned cervid facilities continues. The State Veterinarian will systematically review and release quarantined facilities that have cleared the disease investigation.

The facilities participating in the state's CWD Certification program for at least five years, and participating in the bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Accreditation program, will be the first facilities to be considered for quarantine release. Another criterion for quarantine release is full compliance with laws and standards for cervid facilities for the past five years.

All POC facilities, except those that only have reindeer, the 11 facilities determined to be very low risk, and the 45 facilities at low risk, remain under quarantine. Epidemiologists developed a policy for records review and release of quarantines based on management practices and risk. This document titled, "Cervid Industry Criteria for Quarantine Release" is available on the Michigan Emerging Diseases website.

Disease Surveillance Table:

Index facility	Depopulated	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
1	Entire index herd tested negative	5 herds 2 trace outs (four test-negative animals) 3 trace ins	6 POC herds None of these facilities trace directly to the index facility	Pending Tier 2 epidemiology

DNR Actions:

The DNR will have refrigerated trucks at the check stations in the CWD surveillance zone for hunters to store their deer while waiting for CWD test results. Once the hunter receives notification from the DNR Wildlife Disease Lab that their deer is negative, the deer may be picked up at the check station.

*A list of deer check stations is available at:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/2008_Deer_Check_FINAL_248619_7.pdf

*Hunters may take the boned meat, cape, and clean skull plate with antlers out of the zone without waiting for CWD test results.

Education and Outreach:

MDA and DNR emailed Q & As on CWD to staff answering the telephones

The following information was posted on the emerging disease website:

- DNR Bait Ban
- CWD Fact Sheet
- MDA Quarantine Clarification
- MSU Market Maker
- MDCH Human Health

The MSU Product Center sent a letter to all extension and industry associated with deer bait production to inform them of the Market Maker program, an interactive site that links sellers with buyers. MSUE sent out a news release touching on this service.

The "*There's No Bait Debate*" ad in MUCC's monthly magazine, Michigan Out-of-Doors, was placed for bovine TB, but helps with the CWD issue.

The following meetings were held:

- House of Representatives, September 9, 2008
- West Walker Town Hall, September 9, 2008
- Senate, September 10, 2008
- Natural Resources Commission, September 11, 2008
- MI Agriculture Commission, September 16, 2008
- Michigan Carrot Growers meeting September, 19, 2008
- Cervid Industry Update, September 25, 2008

- MDA and DNR staff plan to speak in Ionia County at MSU Extension's CWD update

Distributed News Releases included information on:

- Quarantines
- The baiting ban
- Clarification of bear bait
- West Walker meeting announcement
- CWD investigation update
- Criteria for quarantine releases
- Special five-day, antlerless-only deer season

Information on CWD may be found on the Michigan Emerging Diseases website at www.michigan.gov/chronicwastingdisease.